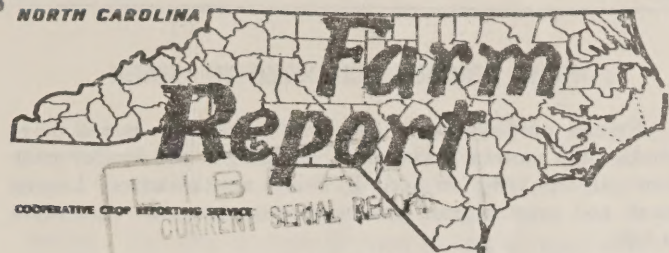


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Reserve NORTH CAROLINA



MAY 20 1953

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No. 133

RALEIGH, N. C.

MAY 8, 1953

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Prices And Other Current Items

N. C. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX DOWN 4 POINTS

The "All Farm Products" index of prices received by North Carolina farmers at local markets dropped 4 points during the month ended April 15. The April 15 "All Farm Products" index of 264 compares with an index of 296 a year ago and an index of 315 on April 15, 1951. (See table on page 3).

The grains commodity index at 195 increased one point during the month. Higher prices for corn, oats and barley more than off-set a two percent drop in the price of rye. The price of corn increased seasonally from \$1.73 to \$1.78 per bushel.

The cotton and cottonseed index decreased 3 points during the month owing to a decrease of half a cent in average cotton prices. Cottonseed at \$67.00 per ton was unchanged from a month earlier.

The meat animals index decreased 8 points during the month owing to lower prices for beef cattle. Beef cattle prices have declined each month, except one, during the past year. The price of hogs, veal calves and sheep was unchanged from a month earlier. (See table on page 2).

The poultry index increased two points during the month ended April 15 as the result of higher prices for both chickens and eggs.

The dairy products index dropped from 248 to 240, reflecting lower prices for both wholesale and retail milk and butterfat.

The miscellaneous products index dropped 4 points due to lower prices for potatoes.

The ratio of prices received by North Carolina farmers to prices paid by U. S. farmers decreased one point during the month. Prices paid by U. S. farmers decreased two points while prices received by N. C. farmers decreased 4 points.

RECORD MARCH HATCHINGS IN NORTH CAROLINA

March output of commercial hatcheries in North Carolina totalled 8,482,000 chicks. This represents an increase of 3.4 percent over the 8,200,000 hatched in March last year. March hatchings compare with the 1947-51 average production of 6,780,000 chicks and were the largest of record for the month.

Hatchings during the first quarter of 1953 are estimated at 19,920,000 chicks -- 3.6 percent greater than the number of chicks produced during the first three month of last year.

The number of chicks produced by commercial hatcheries in the U. S. during March was down slightly more than 1 percent from March last year. Output during March was estimated at 288,994,000 chicks compared with 292,528,000 last year and the 1947-51 average of 254,320,000 chicks.

Hatcheries supplying information on turkey operations reported 13 percent less poults hatched in the U. S. during March than in March last year.

U. S. PRICES RECEIVED DECLINE PARITY INDEX DOWN 2% PARITY RATIO DOWN 1%

The Index of Prices Received by U. S. Farmers declined 5 points (2 percent) during the month ending April 15. At 259 percent of its 1910-14 average the mid-April index compares with 264 in March and with 290 in April last year. Price declines for milk, cattle, onions, and potatoes were mainly responsible for the drop in the index. These were offset in part by higher prices for hogs, lambs, eggs, and rice.

The Index of Prices Paid by Farmers including Interest, Taxes, and Wage Rates also declined during the same period, but only by 2 points (less than 1 percent) to 279. Lower prices for feeder livestock, feed, and seed, together with a decline in the seasonally adjusted wage rate index accounted for most of the decrease. Minor offsets were higher prices for some items of household furniture and furnishings.

With the Parity Index off only 2 points and the Index of Prices Received off 5 points, the Parity Ratio dropped 1 point to 93, the lowest since June 1941.

DAILY AND HOURLY FARM WAGE RATES
NORTH CAROLINA AND SOUTH ATLANTIC STATES

Area and Classification	April 1 1952	April 1 1953
<u>North Carolina</u>		
Per day:		
With house.....	\$4.05	\$4.25
Without board or room	4.85	5.00
Per hour:		
With house, no meals.	.50	.50
Without board or room.	.59	.60
<u>South Atlantic States</u>		
Per day:		
With house.....	4.00	4.20
Without board or room.	4.60	4.80
Per hour:		
With house.....	.54	.55
Without board or room.	.62	.64

N. C. FARM WAGE RATES HIGHER

Wage rates paid by North Carolina farmers were higher on April 1, 1953 than a year earlier (See table at left).

The average rate per day with house increased from \$4.05 to \$4.25, an increase of about 5 percent. The rate per day without board or room increased from \$4.85 to \$5.00, an increase of 3 percent.

The average hourly rate with house was unchanged at 50 cents. The rate per hour without board or room increased from 59 to 60 cents.

FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS MARCH 15, 1953 WITH COMPARISONS

Feed Per Hundredweight	North Carolina		United States	
	Mar. 15 1953	Apr. 15 1953	Mar. 15 1953	Apr. 15 1953
- Dollars -				
Mixed Dairy Feed				
Under 29% protein				
All.....	4.25	4.20	4.29	4.23
16% protein.....	4.15	4.05	4.18	4.13
18% protein.....	4.20	4.10	4.31	4.24
20% protein.....	4.50	4.50	4.45	4.38
24% protein.....	4.55	4.45	4.74	4.66
29% protein.....	5.20	5.10	5.11	5.02
High Protein Feeds				
Linseed meal.....	-	-	5.27	5.03
Soybean meal.....	5.00	4.85	4.91	4.80
Cottonseed meal...	4.55	4.40	4.95	4.80
Meat Scrap.....	5.30	5.10	5.48	5.14
Grain By-Products				
Bran.....	4.05	4.00	3.62	3.58
Middlings.....	4.20	4.15	3.66	3.61
Corn Meal.....	4.75	4.80	3.90	3.89
Corn Gluten.....	-	-	4.24	4.08
Poultry Feed				
Laying Mash.....	5.30	5.30	5.00	4.94
Scratch Grain....	4.65	4.65	4.42	4.42
Broiler Growing				
Mash.....	5.50	5.40	5.34	5.32
Poultry Ration <i>a/</i>	4.44	4.46	3.97	3.94

a/ Average of prices paid for commercial feeds and prices received for grains.

N. C. GRAIN STOCKS LOW U. S. STOCKS OF WHEAT AND CORN HIGH

For each major grain produced in North Carolina, stocks in all positions on April 1, 1953, were below those of a year earlier. In fact, total April 1 stocks of corn in the State were the lowest since 1944, while oats and wheat were the lowest since 1949 and 1951, respectively.

Meanwhile, for the United States relatively large stocks of wheat and corn remained in all storage positions on April 1, 1953. Stocks of rye were nearly the smallest, and stocks of barley were the smallest in the 11-year series for April 1. However, tonnages of the 2 food grains -- wheat and rye -- were second only to those of April 1, 1943, and the April 1 reserves of the 4 feed grains were larger than in 7 of the last 10 years. Soybean stocks in all positions on April 1, 1953 totaled nearly 146 million bushels, the largest April 1 stocks of record.

FEED PRICES UNCHANGED TO LOWER

Prices paid by North Carolina farmers for mixed dairy feeds, high protein feeds, bran, middlings, and broiler mash were slightly lower on April 15 than a month earlier. Laying mash and scratch grain prices were unchanged. (See table at left)

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS APRIL 15, 1953 WITH COMPARISONS

COMMODITY	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA		U.S.
		Mar. 15	April 15	April 15
		1953	1953	1953
		Dollars		
Corn.....	Bu.	1.73	1.78	1.46
Wheat.....	Bu.	2.09	2.09	2.08
Oats.....	Bu.	1.02	1.05	.763
Barley.....	Bu.	1.35	1.40	1.30
Rye.....	Bu.	2.40	2.35	1.49
Sorghum Grains	Cwt.	3.10	3.10	2.52
Soybeans.....	Bu.	2.60	2.65	2.81
Peanuts.....	Lb.	.115	.115	.111
Cotton.....	Lb.	.33	.325	.315
Cottonseed....	Ton	67.00	67.00	63.10
Wool.....	Lb.	.52	.52	.534
Hogs.....	Cwt.	19.30	19.30	20.70
Beef Cattle...	Cwt.	15.30	14.50	17.30
Veal Calves...	Cwt.	21.00	21.00	19.60
Sheep.....	Cwt.	9.00	9.00	8.50
Lambs.....	Cwt.	22.80	23.00	20.80
Milk Cows.....	Head	150.00	145.00	193.00
Chickens.....	Lb.	.265	.272	.272
Eggs.....	Doz.	.435	.435	.455
Milk, Whole...	Cwt.	5.80 <i>a/</i>	5.50 <i>c/</i>	4.12 <i>c/</i>
Retail...	Qt.	.216	.213	.206
Butterfat....	Lb.	.55	.54	.65
Hay, All Baled	Ton	33.90 <i>b/</i>	33.50 <i>b/</i>	23.60 <i>b/</i>
Potatoes.....	Bu.	2.65	2.45	1.34
Sweetpotatoes.	Bu.	3.75	3.65	4.09
Apples, Com'l.	Bu.	2.80	3.10	3.29
Lespedeza Seed	Cwt.	20.90	20.00	18.60
Korean.....	Cwt.	18.30	17.50	-
Kobe.....	Cwt.	23.00	22.00	-
Com. & Tenn.76	Cwt.	27.00	27.00	-
Sericea.....	Cwt.	29.00	29.00	-

a/ Revised. *b/* The all hay price is the weighted average of separate kinds, including an allowance for minor kinds.

c/ Preliminary.

The United States Department of Agriculture announced that the 1953 crop of corn will be supported at not less than a national average of \$1.58 per bushel.

APRIL 1 GRAIN STOCKS

CROP	NORTH CAROLINA						UNITED STATES					
	On-Farm		Off-Farm ^{1/}		Total Stocks		On-Farm		Off-Farm ^{1/}		Total Stocks	
	1952	1953	1952	1953	1952	1953	1952	1953	1952	1953	1952	1953
Thous. Bushels												
Corn	27,433	18,519	1,695	1,885	29,128	20,404	1,052,666	1,466,434	459,276	341,943	1,511,942	1,808,377
Wheat.....	1,082	998	886	865	1,968	1,863	197,895	268,440	319,999	572,058	517,894	840,498
Oats.....	2,187	1,775	301	202	2,488	1,977	519,236	456,956	44,476	49,771	563,712	506,727
Barley....	302	252	*	28	*	280	77,962	57,396	54,012	41,023	131,974	98,419
Rye.....	21	10	1	1	22	11	3,441	2,443	7,251	4,452	10,692	6,895
Soybeans..	969	670	*	1,162	*	1,832	60,095	58,316	70,023	87,555	130,118	145,871
Sorghum												
Grain....	2/	2/	*	55	2/	2/	2/	2/	49,326	18,550	2/	2/

* Unallocated -- to avoid disclosing individual operations.

^{1/} Includes, in addition to stocks in Interior Mills, Elevators and Warehouses, commercial stocks reported by Grain Branch P.M.A., at terminals, and those owned by Commodity Credit Corporation which are in transit to ports, in bins and other storages under C.C.C. control.

^{2/} Not available.

RECEIPTS FROM HOGS UP, CATTLE DOWN

Cash receipts from the sale of cattle and calves in North Carolina during 1952 showed a sharp drop from the preceding year. North Carolina farmers realized \$18,831,000 from sales of cattle and calves in 1952 -- 23 percent less than a year earlier. The drop in cash receipts is largely attributable to declines of \$2.70 per hundredweight in the average price of cattle and \$4.50 per hundredweight in calf prices from the 1951 level. However, marketings of cattle were lower in 1952 while calf sales were up from a year earlier.

Hog marketings increased sharply in 1952, resulting in higher cash receipts from sales despite a \$1.90 per hundred-weight drop in price. Farmers in North Carolina sold 1,020,000 hogs weighing 206,460,000 pounds in 1952 for a total of \$44,424,000. In 1951, sales amounted to 777,000 hogs weighing 161,056,000 pounds. Cash receipts from hog sales totalled \$40,173,000 that year. Gross income from hogs (including the value of home consumption totalled \$66,973,000 in 1952, only slightly above the \$66,382,000 gross income of the preceding year.)

COMPARISON OF U. S. PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS
AND PARITY PRICES

COMMODITY	Prices Received By Farmers		Parity or Comparable Prices		Average Prices As Percentage of Parity	
	Mar. 15 1953	Apr. 15 1953	Mar. 15 1953	Apr. 15 1953	Mar. 15 1953	Apr. 15 1953
	- Dollars -		- Percent -			
Cotton, lb.....	.315	.315	.341	.342	92	92
Wheat, Bu.....	2.10	2.08	2.43	2.44	86	85
Corn, Bu.....	1.46	1.46	1.77	1.77	82	82
Oats, Bu.....	.783	.763	.891	.884	88	86
Barley, Bu.....	1.32	1.30	1.37	1.36	96	96
Rye, Bu.....	1.58	1.49	1.70	1.69	93	88
Beef Cattle, Cwt.	17.80	17.30	21.30	21.00	84	82
Hogs, Cwt.....	20.20	20.70	20.50	20.30	99	102
Lambs, Cwt.....	20.30	20.80	23.00	22.90	88	91
Chickens, lb...	.275	.272	.309	.307	89	89
Eggs, Doz.....	.447	.455	.473c/	.474c/	109d/	110d/
Milk, Whlse. Cwt.	4.41a/	4.12b/	4.72	4.69	95d/	94d/

a/ Revised. b/ Preliminary. c/ Transitional parity, 80 percent (85% during 1952) of parity price computed under formula in use prior to Jan. 1, 1950. d/ Percentage of seasonally adjusted prices to parity prices.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS
(N. C. PRICES RECEIVED 1909-14 = 100 PERCENT)

COMMODITY	Mar. 15 1953	Apr. 15 1953	Apr. 15 1952	Apr. 15 1951	Apr. 15 1950
NORTH CAROLINA INDEX NUMBERS					
All farm products....	268b/	264	296	315	229
Cotton & cottonseed..	263	260	310	356	228
Grains.....	194	195	202	197	175
Meat animals.....	321	313	414	453	319
Poultry.....	226	228	197	233	187
Dairy products.....	248	240	244	241	217
Miscellaneous.....	308b/	304	301	243	241
Ratio of prices Received to paid a/	96	95	102	111	91
UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS					
Prices received.....	264	259	290	309	241
Prices paid, Interest & taxes...	281	279	289	283	251
Ratio of prices Received to paid...	94	93	100	109	96

a/ Ratio of N. C. prices received to U. S. prices paid.

b/ Revised.

FARM PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION & INCOME
FROM MEAT ANIMALS IN NORTH CAROLINA 1951-1952
(Estimates in Thousands)

CATTLE & CALVES 1/		1951	1952
On hand Jan. 1, 1951			
All cattle & calves.....	No.	737	796
All cows 2 years & over.....	No.	438	453
Calves born			
Percent of cows 2 years & over.....	%	76	81
Number.....	No.	333	367
Inshipments.....	No.	7	6
Marketings 2/			
Cattle.....	No.	88	70
Calves.....	No.	121	130
Farm slaughter			
Cattle.....	No.	6	7
Calves.....	No.	11	11
Deaths			
Cattle.....	No.	21	26
Calves.....	No.	34	33
On hand Jan. 1, 1952-All cattle & calves	No.	796	892
Production 3/.....	Lb.	115,255	122,665
Marketings 2/.....	Lb.	90,875	77,050
Price per 100 pounds			
Cattle.....	Dol.	23.40	20.70
Calves.....	Dol.	31.60	27.10
Cash receipts 4/.....	Dol.	24,483	18,831
Value of home consumption.....	Dol.	614	590
Gross income.....	Dol.	25,097	19,421
Cost of inshipments.....	Dol.	1,480	980
HOGS 1/			
On hand Jan. 1, 1951.....			
Spring	No.	1,189	1,308
Sows farrowing.....	No.	152	170
Pigs saved.....	No.	973	1,071
Fall			
Sows farrowing.....	No.	130	114
Pigs saved.....	No.	884	752
Inshipments.....	No.	9	12
Marketings 2/.....	No.	777	1,020
Farm slaughter.....	No.	670	610
Deaths.....	No.	300	310
On hand Jan. 1, 1952.....	No.	1,308	1,203
Production 3/.....	Lb.	327,046	345,130
Marketings 2/.....	Lb.	161,056	206,460
Price per 100 pounds.....	Dol.	20.30	18.40
Cash receipts 4/.....	Dol.	40,173	44,424
Value of home consumption.....	Dol.	26,209	22,549
Gross income 2/.....	Dol.	66,382	66,973
Cost of inshipments.....	Dol.	177	215
SHEEP & LAMBS 1/			
On hand Jan. 1, 1951-all sheep & lambs.			
Lambs saved		41	46
Number.....	No.	29	34
Percent ewes 1 year &.....	%	100	106
Inshipments			
Sheep.....	No.	2	-
Lambs.....	No.	-	-
Marketings 2/			
Sheep.....	No.	1	-
Lambs.....	No.	12	16
Farm slaughter			
Sheep.....	No.	1	1
Lambs.....	No.	2	2
Deaths			
Sheep.....	No.	5	6
Lambs.....	No.	5	7
On hand Jan. 1, 1952-all sheep & lambs.	No.	46	48
Production 3/.....	Lb.	1,454	1,700
Marketings 2/.....	Lb.	1,079	1,290
Price per 100 pounds			
Sheep.....	Dol.	13.20	10.00
Lambs.....	Dol.	30.00	26.10
Cash receipts 4/.....	Dol.	337	363
Value of home consumption.....	Dol.	24	20
Gross income.....	Dol.	361	383
Cost of inshipments.....	Dol.	33	-

1/ Balance sheet estimates. Total of marketings, farm slaughter, deaths, and on hand end of year equals total of lamb crop inshipments and on hand beginning of year. 2/ Excludes inter-farm sales. 3/ Adjustment made for inshipments and changes in inventory. 4/ Includes receipts for marketings and from sales of farm slaughtered meat.

The minimum price support level for 1953-crop upland cotton was announced at 30.8 cents per pound for Middling 7/8 inch cotton.

FARM REPORT

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S. R. Newell, Assistant Chief
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MAY 8, 1953

FARM REPORT

PAGE 4

FARM PRODUCTION AND INCOME FROM MILK SET NEW RECORDS IN 1952

Farm production of milk in North Carolina during 1952 reached a record high of 1.6 billion pounds, nearly 2 percent above production in 1951.

Cash receipts from marketings of all milk and cream reached a record of \$52,720,000 - 9 percent above receipts in 1951. Producers received an average of \$6.41 per 100 pounds for whole milk sold during the year - 21 cents above the 1951 average.

Producers sold (as milk and cream) 822 million pounds of milk during 1952, compared with 777 million pounds sold the previous year. Milk used on farms dropped from 812 million pounds in 1951 to 793 million pounds in 1952.

Ample supplies of soybean meal, cottonseed meal, and linseed meal are now available at prices below the former ceilings.

INDICATED ACREAGE OF CUCUMBERS FOR PICKLES UP 8 PERCENT

An increase of 8 percent over 1952 in planted acreage of cucumbers for pickles in North Carolina is indicated for 1953. This indicated increase over last year's plantings is based on reports received in late March and early April from pickle packers giving information on the acreage that they intend to contract and plant in 1953.

If these early-season acreage prospects materialize, the 1953 plantings of pickling cucumbers will total 14,700 acres. This compares with 13,600 acres planted last year and a 1942-51 average planting of 8,650 acres.

FARM PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION AND VALUE OF MILK IN N. C., 1951-1952

ITEM	UNIT	1951 1/	1952 2/
Farm production and value of milk:			
Number of milk cows on farms 3/.....	No.	357,000	367,000
Production of milk and milkfat:			
Milk production per milk cow 4/.....	Lbs.	4,450	4,400
Milkfat production per milk cow.....	Lbs.	198	194
Percentage of fat in milk.....	%	4.45	4.4
Total milk production on farms 4/.....	Lbs.	1,589,000,000	1,615,000,000
Total milkfat production on farms 4/.....	Lbs.	71,000,000	71,000,000
Butter churned on farms.....	Lbs.	21,000,000	19,500,000
Value of milk used for farm consumption and farm butter 5/.....	Dol.	48,174,000	48,524,000
Gross farm income from dairy products 6/..	Dol.	96,372,000	101,244,000
Farm value of milk produced 7/.....	Dol.	98,518,000	103,522,000
Milk used and marketed by farmers and			
Cash returns per unit marketed 3/			
Milk used on farms where produced:			
Fed to calves.....	Lbs.	35,000,000	36,000,000
Consumed as fluid milk or cream.....	Lbs.	376,000,000	385,000,000
Used for farm churned butter.....	Lbs.	401,000,000	372,000,000
Total utilized on farms.....	Lbs.	812,000,000	793,000,000
Milk marketed by farmers:			
Delivered to plants and dealers			
As whole milk.....	Lbs.	635,000,000	685,000,000
As farmskimmed cream.....	Lbs.	12,000,000	11,000,000
Retailed by farmers as milk and cream 8/	Lbs.	130,000,000	126,000,000
Total in combined milk and cream marketings.....	Lbs.	777,000,000	822,000,000
Average per unit cash returns from milk and cream marketings 9/			
Per 100 lb. milk.....	Dol.	6.20	6.41
Per lb. milkfat.....	Dol.	1.39	1.46
Milk and cream marketed by farmers:			
Milk sold to plants and dealers			
Quantity sold.....	Lbs.	635,000,000	685,000,000
Price per 100 lb.....	Dol.	5.58	5.83
Receipts from sales.....	Dol.	35,433,000	39,936,000
Cream sold to plants and dealers:			
Quantity milkfat sold.....	Lbs.	500,000	460,000
Price per pound fat.....	Cents	57	60
Receipts from sales.....	Dol.	285,000	276,000
Milk and cream retailed by farmers:			
Quantity sold, milk equiv.....	Qt.	60,000,000	59,000,000
Price per quart.....	Ct.	20.8	21.2
Receipts from sales.....	Dol.	12,480,000	12,508,000
Cash receipts from marketings of all milk and cream.....	Dol.	48,198,000	52,720,000

1/ Revised. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Average number during year, heifers that have not freshened excluded. 4/ Excludes milk sucked by calves and milk produced by cows not on farms. 5/ Milk used for fluid consumption and home-made butter on farms where produced valued at average per unit returns for milk utilized in all forms of sale. 6/ Cash receipts from marketings of milk and cream plus value of milk used for farm consumption. 7/ Gross farm income plus value of milk fed to calves. 8/ Approximations based on health officer's reports of sources of fluid milk in villages, towns, and small cities, and information on sales by producer-distributors. 9/ Computed from cash receipts from marketings of all milk and cream divided by the quantity of milk or milkfat represented in the marketings.